

For more information:

Online visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html – click on wells

See WAC 173-160

To leave a recorded message,
call 1-800-468-0261.

Dept. of Ecology, Headquarters
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Bellingham

Field Office
1204 Railroad Ave, #200
Bellingham WA 98225

Bellevue

Northwest Region Office
3190 – 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue WA 98008
(425) 649-7000

Olympia

Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia WA 98504
(360) 407-6300

Vancouver

Field Office
2108 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver WA 98661
(360) 690-7171

Yakima

Central Region Office
15 W Yakima Ave, #200
Yakima WA 98902
(360) 575-2490

Spokane

Eastern Region Office
N. 4601 Monroe, #202
Spokane WA 99205
(509) 329-3400

Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

Wells Caps

Problems and Solutions



April 2003 Revised
Publication No. 96-BR-098

WELL CAPS

Wells are drilled to serve different purposes: exploration, sampling, monitoring and extraction. Over half of this country's rural residents use wells to supply their drinking water. In this state alone, over 8,000 water wells are drilled annually.

We should all take responsibility to ensure that ground water is protected and preserved every time a well is constructed. One simple way to protect ground water is to cap wells securely, both during and after construction.

Here is what Washington's Well Construction Code states about capping wells:

"All wells which are not in use, or are temporarily out of service, must be securely capped so that no contamination can enter the well. Capping must be affixed by solid welds or equal to prevent unauthorized access to the well." Washington Administrative Code 173-160.

Well capping is one aspect of this state's well construction standards that Ecology's inspectors look for, and something that both homeowners and drillers should take seriously. A proper cap will help ensure your family's safety and is instrumental in making sure that contamination doesn't enter a well from the top.

What does Ecology look for in a well cap?

Two common methods of capping wells are:

- 1) The use of prefabricated well caps and
- 2) The use of metal plates welded to the top of the well casing.

Both methods are acceptable, on the condition that they are securely affixed and prevent contamination and unauthorized access to the well. All prefabricated well caps should have a screened vent.

Occasionally Ecology's inspectors find a welded plate or an overturned bucket used to cover the well casing. These are not acceptable methods of capping a well, because they do not meet the standards discussed in the code.

Where can I buy prefabricated well caps?

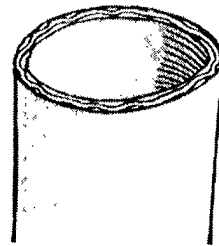
These caps can be supplied by your driller or purchased at pump and water supply stores.

Do your part in keeping ground water supplies safe and clean!

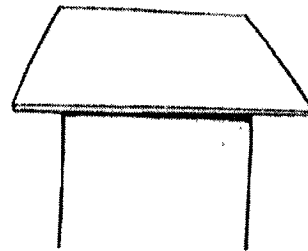
For more information on well cap standards see WAC 173-160.

Correct steps in capping a well temporarily:

Step 1.
If jagged, cut top of pipe casing off.



Step 2.
Securely weld lid onto pipe casing.



Capping methods that don't meet state standards:

